

✓ LOG DRIVING IN MAINE ✓

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SYNOPSIS OF FILM

1. Typical River Scenes in Northern Maine.
2. Logs Carried Along by the Rushing Current.
3. Log Drivers Watching the Rapidly Moving Logs.
4. The Formation of a "Jam." A Single Log Caught on a Rock or by the Bank Causes the Trouble.
5. Dynamiting the "Jam." (A Last Resort.)
6. Sluicing the Logs Through a Dam.
7. Sorting the Logs. (The Sorting Gap.)
8. Log Driver, by the Use of Rope and Wooden Spikes, Forms a Raft of Logs to Float Down the River.
9. View of "Cant-Dog," an Instrument Used for Moving Logs.
10. View of Calked Shoes Which Give the Log Driver a Firm Footing on the Floating Logs.
11. Boy "Treading" a Log in Midstream.

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LOG DRIVING

IN the early days of the settlements in New England, forests covered practically all the land, and lumber was one of the first exports to England. As population, and consequently agriculture, increased in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, the forests were cut down, but in northern Vermont and New Hampshire and in all of Maine vast forests still remain.

Winter is the season for felling the trees. Lumber camps of fifty men or more in each are scattered throughout these states, cutting the trees which will make good lumber, all along the banks of streams large enough to float the logs. These logs are drawn on sledges to the banks of the stream.

When the snow melts and the sap rises in the trees, the cutting is over, and another and more exciting season begins. The logs are hurried along in the swollen streams. Rocks and shallow water often stop a log, and the others, swirling along the rapid current, are held back by it, causing what the lumberjacks call a "jam." If this is not removed, the entire stream becomes blocked. The men move along the river, jumping from log to log on their spiked shoes, and pushing and pulling the logs with iron-shod poles called "pikes." Sometimes, however, in spite of all their efforts, a "jam" is formed, completely blocking the stream. As a last resort, dynamite is used to blow apart the "jam," and to release the logs behind it.

Often dams are built when the water is low in the river, forming a reservoir of sufficient water, when suddenly released, to float the logs further down stream.

Many lumbermen may use the same stream for the log drive, and when the logs have reached the wider and smoother waters where the mills are located, the logs are separated according to their owner's marks.

In the first scene we have the typical stream of Maine, in which the logs are floated to the mills. The current is rapid, and in the second scene we notice the speed with which the logs are carried in the rocky current, and soon we have the beginnings of a "jam." The men are seen hurrying to the point, placing the dynamite and scurrying to safety over the logs in the river. The first explosion fails to loosen the "jam," which is every moment growing greater and greater, and a second and heavier charge of dynamite is applied. This time the logs in the background are seen to move, and quickly the motion is felt by those in the foreground, and the logs go hurrying on.

A permanent dam is now encountered, and the men guide the logs along a boom so as to take the current at the sluiceway, since otherwise the logs would pile in the "dead water" at the ends of the dam, causing great trouble and expense.

Next appears a "cant-dog," an instrument used for turning the logs to discover ownership marks and to place them in positions best suited for handling.

The logs are now sorted. Since Maine furnished us with put t, hemlock, spruce and maple, and since these woods are when to different uses, they are sorted and made into rafts they reach a wide stream, and are floated to the mills.

Here is shown a lumberman riding a log, his pike pole acting as a balance, and his heavy calked shoes giving him a sure footing on the logs.

LOG DRIVING

QUESTIONS ON THE FILM

1. At what season of the year is log driving possible?
Why?
2. What is a log jam? What causes it? In what ways are jams released?
3. Why were the log drivers running in the picture entitled "The Log Jam"?
4. Describe the result of each charge of dynamite.
5. Why is dynamiting a last resort?
6. Describe a boom. For what used?
7. What is a dam? What purpose does it serve?
8. Describe dress and tools of log drivers. (Calked shoes, cant-dog, pike pole, etc.)
9. How do log drivers identify their own logs?
10. Describe the making of a raft. Why are they made.
Why are wooden spikes used?
11. What kinds of trees are felled in Maine?
12. For what purpose is each used?

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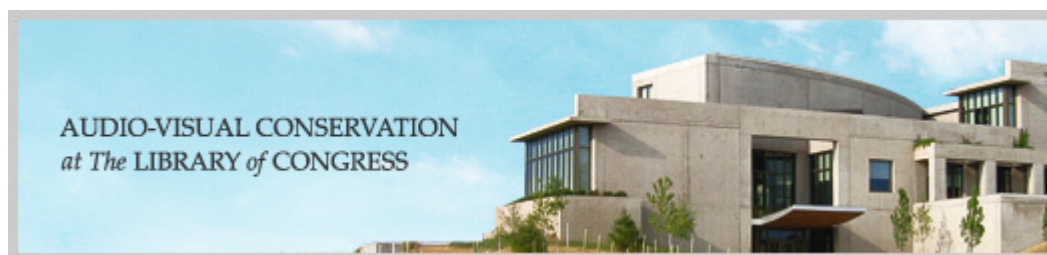
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